

matter that Applicants regard as their invention. In particular, the Examiner points to language in claim 8 making the scope of the claim unclear, lack of antecedent basis and incomplete reference in claim 13, and misdescription in claim 14. With respect to the cited incomplete reference in claim 13, "said member" is "said member for forming the air reservoir room", which is introduced in claim 12 (upon which claim 13 depends). Applicants amend claims 8, 13 and 14 to address the remaining issues identified by the Examiner, and respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Applicants further thank the Examiner for indicating that claim 13 would be allowable if amended to overcome the rejection under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112 and to incorporate the limitations of base claim 12. As Applicants respectfully submit that base claim 12 is allowable for reasons discussed below, Applicants further submit that amended claim 13 is also allowable

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,949,646 to Lee et al. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,242,690 to Glover, or alternatively, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Glover. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,291,766 to Komai.

In amended independent claim 12, Applicants disclose a communication device including a sub-rack unit containing, inter alia, a member for forming an air reservoir room and a plurality of motor-fan units each detachably plugged into the sub-rack unit under the member for forming the air reservoir so that the motor-fan units and the member for forming an air reservoir room are sealably integrated with each other.

Lee discloses computer enclosures having one or more compartments housing electronic equipment and a plurality of fans for cooling the one or more compartments. Several of Lee's enclosures incorporate a plenum or air reservoir disposed between a set of fans and a compartment. However, unlike Applicants' invention, Lee's fan units 18 are not sealably integral with plenum member 26 (see, e.g., FIG 1 of Lee). Applicants' claimed invention provides the advantage of providing less air leakage and thereby greater airflows than the open design of Lee. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 12 is not anticipated by Lee, and is therefore in condition for allowance.

In amended independent claim 8, Applicants disclose a plug-in unit to be mounted in a sub-rack unit, including a printed board, a metal case and first and second spring members which operate when the plug-in unit is mounted in the sub-rack unit to press outward first and second side faces of the metal cases against ribs in the sub-rack unit using resilient forces of the first and second spring members.

Glover discloses a gasket system for EMI isolation including gaskets 22, 36 for creating an elastic seal between covers 14, 16 and circuit board 12. However, in sharp contrast to spring members 101, 102 of Applicants' invention (see, e.g., Applicants' FIGs 9A, 9B), Glover's gaskets 22, 36 are not positioned to press outward side faces of covers 14, 16 against ribs in a sub-rack unit, but are instead configured to shield the perimeters of EMI-generating areas on the circuit board 12. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Applicants' claim 8 is neither anticipated by nor made obvious by Glover, and is therefore in condition for allowance.

In summary, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 8 and 12 stand in condition for allowance. As claim 14 depends from allowable claim 12, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 14 is allowable for at least this reason.

CONCLUSION

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objections. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that claims 1 – 8 and 12 - 14, which include independent claims 1, 8 and 12, and the claims that depend therefrom, stand in condition for allowance. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Attached is a marked up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached pages are captioned **“Version With Markings To Show Changes Made”**.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 8, 12, 13 and 14 as follows:

8. (Amended) A plug-in unit to be mounted in a sub-rack unit [including connectors], comprising:

a printed board [including connectors provided on a side thereof, the connectors being connected with the connectors of the sub-rack unit so that the plug-in unit is mounted therein] to be connected with the sub-rack unit;

a metal case including top and bottom faces, and parallel first and second side faces perpendicular to the top and bottom faces so as to cover said printed board; and

first and second spring members for elastically pressing outward the first and second side faces of said metal case, respectively, against ribs of the sub-rack unit by resilient force thereof when said plug-in unit is mounted in the sub-rack unit.

12. (Amended) A communication device comprising:

a sub-rack unit comprising:

a back wiring board having connectors; and

first and second guide rail parts being attached to a top side and a lower portion of said sub-rack unit, respectively;

a plurality of plug-in units being inserted along the first and second guide rail parts into said sub-rack unit to be plugged into the connectors of said sub-rack unit;

a member for forming an air reservoir room formed under the second guide rail parts; and

a plurality of motor-fan units each having a motor fan, said motor-fan units being detachably plugged into said sub-rack unit under said member for forming the air reservoir room so that the motor-fan units and said member for forming an air reservoir room are sealably integrated with each other.

13. (Amended) The communication device as claimed in claim 14, wherein:

each of said motor-fan units further comprises a lid member provided on the motor fan, the lid member including a packing around the motor fan and a projection part formed on an end portion thereof, the end portion being in a direction in which each of said motor-fan units is plugged into said sub-rack unit, the projection part having a top face tilt in said direction; and

the packing is compressed to allow the [slider] lid member to be pressed against a bottom face of said member for forming the air reservoir room when each of said motor-fan units is plugged into said sub-rack unit.

14. (Amended) The communication device as claimed in claim 12, further comprising:

a filler plug-in unit having the same size and resistance to airflow as each of said plug-in units, the filler plug-in unit being filled into a space left in said sub-rack unit[, the space being left empty by said plug-in units mounted in said sub-rack unit].